

Lega language

Lega is a Bantu language, or dialect cluster, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are two major varieties, **Shabunda Lega** and **Mwenga Lega**; Mwenga Lega, with about 10% of speakers, finds Shabunda difficult to understand. *Kanu* has been assigned a separate ISO code but is a dialect of Shabunda, and no more divergent than other dialects.

Variant spellings of 'Lega' are *Rega*, *Leka*, *Ileka*, *Kilega*, *Kirega*. Shabunda is also known as *Igonzabale*, and Mwenga as *Shile* or *Ishile*. Gengele is reported to be a Shabunda-based creole.

According to *Ethnologue*, **Bembe** is part of the same dialect continuum. Nyindu is a dialect of Shi that has been heavily influenced by Lega.

References

1. Shabunda Lega (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/lea/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Mwenga Lega (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/gm/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Kanu (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/khx/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Kwami (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ktf/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Lega" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/lega1253>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)

Lega	
Native to	DR Congo
Ethnicity	Lega
Native speakers	(450,000 cited 1982–2000) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu (Zone D.20)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lega–Binja<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lega–Bemba<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lega</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: <div>lea – Shabunda Lega</div> <div>lgm – Mwenga Lega</div> <div>khx – Kanu</div> <div>ktf – Kwami</div>
Glottolog	lega1253 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/lega1253) ^[2]
Guthrie code	D.25, 251 ^[3]



Play media

A speaker of the Lega language, also called Kilega, recorded for Wikitongues

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